

Message Text

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43

ORIGIN SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY PM/ISO - JDSTODDART:ML

APPROVED BY PM - SEYMOUR WEISS

EUR/NE - MR. BUELL

PM/ISP - MR. BROWN

EUR/RPM - MR. ROMINE

S/S- MR. MILLER

----- 115547

P 281631Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

SECRET STATE 234139

EXDIS

E.O- 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, UK

SUBJECT; POSSIBLE BRITISH DEFENSE CUTS

1. DURING RECENT LONDON VISIT WEISS, DIRECTOR, PM BUREAU
MET WITH THOMSON, AUS, FCO, AND WAS INFORMED THAT PROPOSED
MOD BUDGETARY CUTS WERE IN OFFING. SPECIFICALLY THOMSON
INDICATED THAT THE CUTS WOULD EMERGE IN THE 1977 BUDGET AS
BUDGET LEVELS THROUGH 1976 HAVE ALREADY BEEN FIXED.
THOMSON ALSO INDICATED THAT WHILE HE COULD NOT SPEAK TO
THE PRECISE MAGNITUDE OF THE REDUCTION HE HOPED IT WOULD
NOT EXCEED ABOUT 10. MEMCON HAS BEEN POUCHED.

2. WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY TAKING DISCREET SOUNDING WITH
THOMSON TO DETERMINE IF THE PLANNED CUTS BEGINNING IN THE
1977 DEFENSE BUDGET WILL PUBLICLY SURFACE IN THE SCHEDULED
DEFENSE WHITE PAPER TO BE PUBLISHED IN FEBRUARY ON THE UK
1974/75 BUDGET ESTIMATES. WE REQUIRE CLEAR FIX ON THIS
IN VIEW OF THE IMPLICATIONS TO US INTERESTS IN SEVERAL
AREAS OF A PUBLIC UNVEILING BY THE BRITISH IN THEIR NEXT
WHITE PAPER OF THEIR LONGER TERM INTENTIONS TO SHARPLY
SECRET

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REDUCE DEFENSE EXPENDITURES. KISSINGER

SECRET

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